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CHOCOLATES

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SUPER-CHARGED DRAMA CERTAIN IN GRAND FINAL

The Unlikely Lads — that's the most fitting epithet for the 22 players who will take the field on Sunday afternoon in the Grand Final.

Few expected Hakoah to make the grade, but hardly anybody seriously suggested that Pan Hellenic would make it either.

The odds against the pair meeting on Sunday would have been pretty long indeed — yet here they are, all highly geared to take out the most coveted prize Sydney soccer can offer.

Many will regret, for the first time since 1962, the absence of APIA; possibly even more are sorry that the young and immensely talented Prague have also missed out.

But in a way, the Grand Final pairing is only right and logical as it confirms the championship results where these two came out clearly on top.

The round-robin series itself was a classic prelude, the most ex-

citing and the closest on record, deservedly attracting record crowds.

Alfred Hitchcock, himself, couldn't have staged a more suspenseful climax.

With one minute to go in both games last Sunday, the result was in doubt.

For some weeks past now we have proved to be miserably bad tipsters — together with thousands of others.

But you can't be wrong all the time — and on that basis we forecast, without any compassion or conviction, a narrow Hakoah win in the Grand Final, but recent form has been so capricious that Pan Hellenic's multitude of fans are entitled to dismiss this timid prognosis.

Two incidents from last Sunday's thrilling round-robin matches. TOP: H. Rutherford of Hakoah and Prague's Zeman (dark shirt). BELOW: A scramble in the Pan Hellenic goalmouth with goalie Clarke groping at the feet of Giacometti and Burnett while Johnston appears off-balance.



MIXED FORTUNE FOR VIC. REFS

From BOB LOW in Melbourne

A member of the Victorian Soccer Referees' Association, Harold Thorne, was recently beaten up while officiating in the middle at a Sunday match between Macedonia and Shepparton city, in Shepparton.

Thorne, 43 and a machine operator of Reservoir, Victoria, told police that Macedonia players had attacked him after he had awarded a penalty to Shepparton City.

He managed to get away and ran to a nearby house. Police were called to escort Thorne back to the ground to collect his clothes from the dressing rooms.

Thorne's wife and children were still at the ground when he returned there.

The referee submitted an official report to the Murray-Goulburn Soccer Federation, which last Sunday suspended eleven Macedonia players and two officials for life.

Meanwhile, one of the top Victorian whistlers, Dave Maitland, had a red-letter day.

First he was honored, along with Tony Boskovic (NSW) and Edward Bude (WA) by FIFA when all three were awarded the FIFA badge and lapel pin for having refereed

three "A" international matches in two consecutive years.

Almost on the dot of this announcement brought the news that Maitland was placed in charge of the Dockerty Cup quarter-final game between South Melbourne Helias and JUST.

It was his first assignment since the Victorian Referees' Association mooted the suggestion that any of their members reaching the age of 50 be automatically retired.

Fortunately, the suggestion was not endorsed at the AGM when it took the form of a motion but it had the effect of widening the gap between Maitland and his parent body to such an extent that he has not had a match of any description for many weeks until last weekend's appointment.

According to well informed sources he was on the verge of officially tendering his resignation after further disagreements with the Referees' Association.

YARDLEY, TODD WILL RETURN

George Yardley and Dave Todd are almost certain to play for St. George-Budapest again next season.

Yardley starred for the Saints in 1965 and 1966 before returning to Britain where, with English Third Division side Tranmere Rovers, he became one of the League's most sensational scoring aces.

At one stage Everton, Coventry and Manchester City all showed interest in the big Scot whose market value in England has been estimated at \$60,000.

In March Yardley suffered a serious kidney injury but has since fully recovered and is once again among the goals with Tranmere.

In June when I met him in England, Yardley said both he and his wife were keen to return to Australia — this time for good.

Last week the matter was all but settled between the

player and St. George president Les Bordacs.

Tranmere are expected to grant him a free clearance as he also joined them without a transfer fee in 1966.

If all goes well, the Yardleys will arrive in Sydney before Christmas.

The other "newcomer," Dave Todd, played for the Saints in 1965 and, within one season, won a berth in the Australian World Cup team in Cambodia.

The fast, elusive winger has been playing in a leading Welsh League club since his return to Britain in early 1966.

Yardley is only 27 and Todd only 25, so both will be tremendous assets for St. George-Budapest next season.

— Paul Dean

WITH THE AMATEURS EASY WIN TO ENMORE IN DIVISION II FINAL

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

A provision in the Federation's new constitution which escaped the attention of Inter-Suburban League clubs means that Guildford and Enmore will have to play-off for the right to go up with Riverside Rapids into the 1969 First Division.

In the past the clubs' promotion depended on goal-averages where points were even.

The new constitution provides for a home-and-away play-off.

Guildford and Enmore were even in second place.

At the bottom of the Second Division table Gymea automatically goes down, but Sydney University and Penrith (13 points each) have to play-off so that the other demoted club is decided.

Guildford club is not happy at the prospect of the games and claim that they were not advised of the alterations.

In the play-offs this weekend, at Marks Field on Sunday, Sydney University meets Penrith at 1.15 p.m. (relegation from Division II to Division III) and at 3 p.m. Enmore and Guildford clash to determine who will be promoted to First Division.

Last Saturday at Banks-ton Soccer Centre Enmore put on a terrific second half spurt to win the Second Division championship from Guildford by 3-0.

In the first half Enmore were somewhat lethargic, but there was no doubt as to the masters in the second spell.

This was the fourth meeting between the clubs and up to last Saturday the count stood at a win each and one draw.

Junior Finals

Sans Souci and Revesby Rovers each got three teams into the finals of the 1968 Champion of Champion series for victorious First Division teams from Sydney District Associations.

The finals of all grades will be played on Sunday, and these will be the last fixtures of the Sydney Metropolitan FA's 1968 competitions.

Finals being played are: George Green Oval, North Bankstown: 9.20 U/16: Bankstown Thistle v. St. Marys, 10.25, U/14:

Answer to Newcastle

Paul Mackenzie's defence of North NSW's position in present-day soccer in last week's issue leaves me cold.

It seems like a case of being too aware of the history of Newcastle soccer and too insular to see the wood from the trees.

Look at Newcastle.

Some 250,000 people spread over a big area, with plenty of keen soccer enthusiasm.

In the UK, a city of this size would field one, maybe even two senior clubs.

And the public would flock to see good standard football.

Newcastle hopes to get the interest with 12 teams.

Watch the pattern in South Africa, which has some resemblance to our own.

If we live in the past we won't progress.

This is the day of tremendous technological advance, time for big thinking.

Mediocre playing standards will not bring the public in their thousands.

And those digs about the old "Sydney-based administration!"

Paul, remember the basis of voting in the old Association, and how matters were handled?

— Keith Gilmour

SYDNEY CLUB PATROL

Joe Marston came out of retirement last Wednesday to team up with Barry Salisbury in the Illawarra XI which played the touring FIJIAN national team at the Dapto Showground. The Fijians' first two matches in Australia resulted in a 5-3 loss against the ACT in Canberra last Saturday and a 5-0 win the following day at Griffith against a Riverina representative side. The Fijians' only match in Sydney will be at the Marks Field next Wednesday, against a NSW amateur XI.

JEFF LAMBERT, who recently toured with the NSW under-16 team, made his debut for the Auburn first team last Saturday when he played inside-right in the first half.

The GRANVILLE District Football Association will hold day at Macarthur Park. There its presentation day next Sunday will be 700 presentations and more than 1000 players of all ages will take part.

The Sydney Federation REFEREES will hold their annual dinner at Valentine's Restaurant on Sunday evening.

A composite Young England team, drawn from First Division clubs, will tour New Zealand next year. If the chaotic plans of the ASF for an Australian tour in 1969 don't clear up, no doubt we can again ask New Zealand to "lend" us their guests for a few games, as was the case with Cardiff City this year ...

If we were Horrie Clarke or Peter Fuze we wouldn't go anywhere near TCN Channel 9's TELEVISION Studios on Saturday morning. Goales Clarke and Brian King, of Prague, were interviewed in successive weeks on Ron Casey's soccer segment. By a weird coincidence both suffered shattering defeats the following day. Talk of a jinx!

There must be something in the SPORTS GROUND air, or could it be the turf or the big-time atmosphere? Twenty-six goals have been scored during the round-robin, or an average of 4.3 goals per match as against only 2.9 in the 22 championship rounds.

On radio last Sunday, 2GB failed miserably on soccer in its main 6 p.m. news broadcast. MARTIN ROYAL, however, was right on the ball on 2BL at 6.15 p.m. with a summary of the matches. Most radio and TV stations

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Hakoah are more than willing to listen to any offers for their former Welsh international fullback, TREVOR



EDWARDS, "Soccer World's" top star" award winner in 1964.

Had a phone call on Monday from a defected APIA FAN who blamed coach Iglesias for the team's failure to reach the Grand Final. The supporter, who will remain nameless, claims Iglesias erred by not fielding Campana in the first half. He can't understand how a player of the Argentinian's calibre could ever be earmarked as a substitute. He also pointed out that Archie Blue, in the opening match of the round-robin, against Prague, had also come in only as a substitute. Our APIA caller was adamant that Campana in the first half could have clinched APIA's win over Pan Hellenic as they held a marked territorial advantage in the first 45 minutes.

St. George-Budapest are likely to TRANSFER list a host of players, including Schauman, Sandell, Bird, Mansfield, Telfer, Clarke, Rees, Burton, Bushby, possibly even Kane and Piggott.

Queensland's ace goalkeeper, ROSS KELLY, is now certain to wind up in Sydney. The transfer tag on the Australian star could be around a rather moderate \$3500 figure.

St. George-Budapest are likely to TRANSFER list a host of players, including Schauman, Sandell, Bird, Mansfield, Telfer, Clarke, Rees, Burton, Bushby, possibly even Kane and Piggott.

According to a report, Western Suburbs are keen to sign Prague skipper LES SCHEINFUG next season.

BOSKOVIC AGAIN!
Tony Boskovic on Sunday will referee his sixth consecutive Sydney Grand Final — a deserved tribute to Australia's undisputed No. 1 whistler. Boskovic first came on the scene towards the end of 1961 and 18 months later was established as Sydney's leading referee and was awarded his first Grand Final in 1963. There's been no one to challenge him since.

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N. ZEALAND TAKING WORLD CUP SERIOUSLY

— From BILL STUART in Auckland —

New Zealand made amends for its loss earlier this season to Cardiff City when a revitalised team overwhelmed Fiji 5-0 in Auckland at the conclusion of the Fijians' seven-match, 14-day tour.

Fiji go on to play one match in New Caledonia and then undertake short tour of Australia.

In a fast and exciting international which was nowhere as near one-sided as

the score suggests, it was the solid New Zealand defence and the better combination and understanding of the New Zealand forwards which brought victory. This was the start of the

New Zealand preparation for the forthcoming World Cup preliminary matches and a heartening beginning it was, too.

The national coach Juan Schwanner had a much larger say in the selection of the team and he must have been specially pleased with the great form shown by the new "caps."

None went better than the young Canterbury full-back Graham Davis, brought in when left-back Gary Lake broke a leg within 24 hours of the announcement of the team.

Nineteen-year-old Mal Ferguson, the tall Dunedin Scot took over like an accomplished veteran from the former New Zealand captain Tom McNab, who has retired from representative play, at centre-half, while the young Auckland wing-half John Staines, as defensive sweeper, endorsed the great form he has been showing all season with his club Eastern Suburbs.

But perhaps the glamor boy of the newcomers was the New Zealand cricket vice-captain and Canterbury inside-forward Vic Pollard — selected for top soccer honors for the first time on his 23rd birthday — who fully justified the faith of Schwanner in "plucking him out of the blue" and whose defence-splitting passes gave great service to New Zealand.

By LOU GAUTIER who will leave for the Olympic Games next week —

The biggest advance sale of tickets at Mexico City has been for soccer and boxing. Eighty percent of tickets for both have already been sold. Mexico will play all their matches at Mexico City's Azteca Stadium, which is certain to be filled to its capacity 110,000. Bookings at the provincial centres of Puebla, Guadalajara and Leon, however, haven't been so brisk for other preliminary round-robin matches. Less than 10 percent of tickets there have been sold.

The French team trained for two weeks at France's high altitude camp at Font Romeu in the Pyrenees before flying to Mexico. Five players have dropped out from the French squad in recent weeks to turn professional. The most talented of these is Larque, now a regular first grader for French champions, St. Etienne. Three of the French Olympic players are New Caledonians Marc Kanyan, Claude Charles and Pierre Tambouene. The latter two played in Sydney with the New Caledonian national team in 1965.

Czechoslovakia will definitely take part in the Olympic tournament. The Czechoslovakian Olympic Committee announced last week that despite the disruption to sport caused by the recent events in the country it would send some 150 sportsmen to Mexico, including a 24-man soccer party. The Czechs' pre-Olympic preparations, however, have been seriously hampered and they have now slipped from joint-favoritism for the gold medal they once shared with Mexico and Hungary.

The Hungarian team is heavily built on the crack Ferencvaros stars such as Varga, Szoke, Szucs, Pancics and Novak. Coach Dr. Karoly Lakat — who is also the coach of Ferencvaros — is confident of repeating their Tokyo triumph where he was also in charge of the team. As several Hungarian sides, both national and club, have in recent years toured Mexico, the conditions are not likely to upset them unduly.

The Spanish soccer contingent will include one of the most illustrious names in world soccer. Don Santiago Bernabeu, president of Real Madrid for the past 25 years, though a millionaire in his own right, has asked to be attached to the Spanish soccer squad in

Mexico as a supporter only. Bernabeu will share the players' quarters and watch every match from the trainer's bench.

The Israelis played in New York before flying to Mexico. Their opponent was the American national team, playing its first full international since 1965. US coach Phil Woosnam treated the match against Israel as a full-dress rehearsal for America's World Cup elimination commitments later this year.

The Mexican and Hungarian competitions have been suspended for the duration of the Olympic Games. The Hungarian league is in recess for six weeks. The Mexican championship stopped last week and will resume on November 7.

If recent results are any guide Guinea can't look forward to Mexico with much optimism. Before setting off for the Games their national side lost 1-4 and 1-2 to lowly Senegal.

England national team boss, Alf Ramsey, will attend the Olympics to gather more information for the World Cup two years hence. This is Ramsey's third visit to Mexico since England's 1966 World Cup victory.

Spain at the Olympics will be coached by the former Argentinian-born star Real Madrid centre-half, Santamaría. The Spanish amateurs played "warm-up" matches at Tenerife, Gijon and Cordoba before taking off for Mexico.

The Brazilian squad will come to Mexico fully acclimatised to the high altitude. For three weeks prior to their departure they trained at Manaus, the capital of the State of Amazonas, only a few hundred feet below Mexico City's altitude.

A major factor in the return to top form of the national XI was the return at centre-forward of Auckland's Col Shaw, top scorer on the Asian tour last year who was unavailable through injury for the Cardiff match.

Shaw led the forwards in fine style and snapped up a second half hat-trick. Also impressive was another young Auckland centre-forward, 19-year-old Earl Thomas of the Mt. Wellington club, who added punch at outside-right.

New Zealand's next match in their World Cup build-up is against New Caledonia at Auckland early next month.

The Fijians are unorthodox, speedy and colorful footballers whose form is rather erratic.

At their best they are bewilderingly brilliant but their style is too individual to achieve solid consistency.

Of course, they are at their best on the hard, dry grounds they are used to at home, where their speed takes full toll.

On their New Zealand tour the Fijians beat the Auckland Under-23 XI 5-4; lost to Bay of Plenty 6-1; beat Western Bay of Plenty 6-3; lost to Hawkes Bay 4-2; drew with Wellington 2-2; beat Taranaki 5-4; and lost to New Zealand 5-0.

Soccer boom for the North Shore

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

Our review of the activities of the District Associations begins this year with Ku-ring-gai.

Although not yet amongst the top bracket when it comes to winning Sydney or State championships, in little more than 10 years Ku-ring-gai, covering the territory from Lindfield to the Hawkesbury, already has 256 teams and over 3,700 registered players.

And already no one can refute that it is numerically the largest sporting organisation on the North Shore.

There are few clubs which have a ground with as much potential as Asquith Oval, a few yards off the Pacific Highway at Asquith.

The playing pitch is superb, and the embankment a natural amphitheatre.

This year Stuart Sherwin, the former Prague star, coached and played for Ku-ring-gai to win their reserve grade final, and he is certain to be there to develop the best young players again next year.

In 1969 the Association will also start to enjoy the benefit of the mammoth junior development program.

The number of players in senior, under-18 and 16 year grades is certain to show a 40 percent rise.

This in turn will require a substantial increase in the number of grounds needed for afternoon games.

In addition to having the services of Stuart Sherwin, the District Representative League teams come under the care of two of Sydney's best coaches with the juniors, Davie Wardell and Andy Clews.

This year the under-10s reached the Sydney final, and

Smalltalk

Can and should a referee make a come-back after having spent some time as the paid secretary of a club?

This is the question very often heard nowadays as the case, reportedly, may soon arise.

The Referees' Association, we are told, will raise objection, as the man has all the necessary qualifications to take up the whistle again.

"We will act only if we receive any complaints from clubs," said a spokesman.

What sort of complaint? Well, the likely one is that the ex-secretary-referee has prejudiced his impartiality by attaching himself to a club.

And this is likely — understandably so. Refereeing is a tricky business, demanding, above know-how, not only integrity but also all appearances of integrity.

Referees are not supposed to have any bias or prejudice — but they do, of course, same as policemen, garbage collectors — or journalists.

Most referees I have talked to admit — and only the dishonest try to deny it — that if not sooner than during a match they form all kinds of "opinions" about the two teams and some of the players.

These "opinions" can and most of the time are contained and never manifest themselves in the decisions. But sometimes they do, almost without premeditation, instinctively. Then there's trouble.

In Sydney's highly cosmopolitan soccer set-up fans and even officials are only too ready to announce that and-so-and-so doesn't like Greeks, Jews, Italians, Poms or any other breed.

While it's really quite irrelevant whether a referee likes any particular race more than the other, these rumors often spread and snowball, attaching an undeserved stigma to a referee.

Now, in a highly charged atmosphere of this type, what chance would a referee have who was once both emotionally and economically involved with a club?

None, I'd say. If he makes the slightest error in a match involving his former club — a genuine error which all referees can and do make — the verdict will be quick and lethal: he is "pulling" for them.

Which, indeed, he may — even without knowing it.

But the question remains: should he come back? Should he again be a referee where his talents could be well utilised?

YES, I'd say unhesitatingly. But he should himself stipulate that he doesn't wish to referee matches in the same Division where his former club plays.

Eliminating all suspicions in his case would be equal to the task of restoring virginity.

Once this referee made his decision to join a club and work for it, he forfeited any right to the most vital claim any referee can have: impartiality.

If he is keen on a come-back, he obviously loves refereeing — perhaps more than a paid secretaryship. And the game needs everybody who loves it.

But the game cannot afford the slightest risk of falling under suspicion.

And neither, one feels, can any referee.

— MIKE RENWICK

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LEO BAUMGARTNER won the 1959 Grand Final with Prague but will always be remembered for leading Canterbury to a 5-2 victory in the 1960 Grand Final against his former club. Watkiss and Smith were the "Professors" teenage team-mates in one of the greatest-ever Grand Finals, played at Henson Park.



GERRY HOOD's controversial second half goal in pouring rain clinched the 1966 Grand Final for Hakoah. A depleted APIA — Campana was sent off early by referee Boskovic — lost 1-2 in a stormy match which provoked tense moments on the terraces.

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HEROES OF PAST CAST SHADOW OVER GROUND

Who will be the much-sung hero of the 1968 Grand Final?

By tradition, this honor usually goes to a forward, though many a defender has also caught the eye in previous Grand Finals.

But forwards, after all, are the ones who can, and do, decide these tense tussles with their goals.

For it's always goals that are long and best remembered.

And Sydney Grand Finals throughout the years have almost always yielded an unusually high tally of goals.

Here on this page we pay tribute to some of the heroes of past Grand Finals.

Will somebody emulate their deeds on Sunday afternoon in front of what will certainly be the biggest crowd at an Australian club match this year?

Will it be Hakoah's John Watkiss in his record eighth Grand Final appearance, Brian Smith, a Grand Finalist with Canterbury in 1960 and 1961, or will Takis Loukanidis finally rise to the occasion?



JOHN WATKISS created a record which may stand for a very long time. In the 1964 Grand Final he scored five goals in APIA's run-away 7-2 win over St. George-Budapest. Watkiss has appeared in seven other Grand Finals — for Canterbury in 1958, 1960 and 1961 and for APIA in 1964, 1965, 1966 and 1967.



HERBERT NINAUS starred in Prague's 1959 triumph and was instrumental in achieving the "double" for his club, a feat which was only equalled once since (by APIA in 1964). Ninaus, for once, didn't score in the Grand Final, played under the worst conditions ever seen in Sydney. Despite the torrential downpour, however, 12,000 people turned out to see Prague beat APIA 3-2 at Henson Park.



JOHN WARREN and St. George-Budapest captured their first Grand Final in 1967 after three unsuccessful attempts (1962, 1964, 1965). Down 0-2 after 23 minutes, Saints stormed back in the second half to overwhelm APIA 5-2 in a very satisfying Grand Final.



GRAHAM BARNETT reached the peak of his Australian career in the 1963 Grand Final. At the Sports Ground, before a record crowd of 30,158 spectators, he spearheaded South Coast to a sensational 4-0 win over APIA, though on that occasion he didn't score himself.

Hakoah after "double" but Hellenic will fight

— By LOU GAUTIER —

The 1968 Grand Final is not the one most people expected, but few will deny that Hakoah and Pan Hellenic deserve to participate in Sydney soccer's red-letter day.

Inrespective of the inevitable "ifs" and "buts," both reached the Grand Final on merit, though in the final play-off round-robin the championship order was reversed, Pan Hellenic topping the table this time.

All said and done, a berth in the prestigious Sydney Grand Final — traditionally the best patronised event in the Australian soccer club calendar — is just a reward for both teams.

Pan Hellenic are rewarded for revitalising Sydney soccer this year with the additional supporters they attracted by "importing" Loukanidis, and a Grand Final appearance is also a just recompense for Hakoah's initiative and financial outlay in securing John Watkiss at a record transfer fee as well as Burnett and the Rutherford brothers — all of whom have more than repaid the club already.

Besides, it is quite fitting, even moral, that the two teams that dominated the championship should be our there on Sunday with a chance to win the Grand Final.

Hakoah, Sydney's most titled club — they've won every trophy in the book — will be aiming for the elusive, seldom attained "double" after their first-ever championship win this season.

Clean sweep?

Hakoah are also in line for a clean sweep this year.

They've already taken out the Sydney Ampol Cup, the championship, and the Inter-City Ampol Cup (against Croacia-Melbourne in March) and to complete the grand slam to win Sunday's Grand Final and the Australia Cup (they are already in the semifinals) next month.

Pan Hellenic, whom most experts us included we must admit, had doomed to last place in the round-robin, are in the Grand Final for the first time.

In fact they've only ever reached any sort of final only once before: in 1965 when, coincidentally, they lost to Hakoah in the Federation Cup final.

Sunday's match climaxes a spectacular rise from depressing anonymity for Pan Hellenic.

Their record for the first time is now in keeping with their massive support — Australia's largest.

Pan Hellenic's dramatic last-minute win last weekend is certain to attract some 12,000 Greeks to the Sportsground and, weather permitting, Sunday's atten-



JOHN COLE
(Pan Hellenic)

dance could be around the 22,000 mark.

Forms throughout the round-robin have been so topsy-turvy that they hardly provide any reliable guide to the outcome of the Grand Final.

Grand Finals in the past have more often than not produced surprise results.

In recent years form has counted for little, and we have a feeling that all we've seen in previous weeks, even months, will count for nought.

What will count is what actually happens for 90 minutes between 3 and 4.45 p.m. on Sunday, nothing else.

This is the one match of the year where lucky breaks count double, where one mistake, as we've seen so many times in recent Grand Finals, can break a team's back and change the course of the game.

It's useless to dwell on suppositions in a match of the peculiar nature, where the unexpected is the norm rather than the exception.

Balanced

It suffices to say that Hakoah looked far more impressive than Pan Hellenic last Sunday and that on paper they easily have the more balanced team.

Last weekend they were forced to attack and go for broke, and their much-maligned forwards showed in no uncertain fashion they can be match-winners just as much as their much more highly-rated team-mates in the defence.

Pan Hellenic, however, can take heart from their 1-0 victory over Hakoah four weeks ago. Few people expected them to win that match.

With the exception of their supporters, even fewer will possibly back them to repeat this success on Sunday.

But then, who ever seri-

ously expected Hakoah to beat APIA in 1966 and St. George to thrash APIA last year?

Pan Hellenic will enter the Grand Final as outsiders. With nothing to lose, and their first-ever trophy to gain, they may be just in the right frame of mind to spring a surprise.

Because a victory over the "double"-seeking Ha-

koh would rate as a surprise, if only a mild one.

For what it's worth, we think Hakoah will win a close match and that John Watkiss will celebrate his eighth Grand Final appearance (three for Canterbury and four with APIA) by playing a decisive role in Hakoah's record fourth Grand Final triumph.

PROBABLE TEAMS

HAKOAH v. PAN HELLENIC

FUZES	1. CLARKE
FEKETE	2. JOHNSTON
HILLSDON	3. HENSON
WALSH	4. McCULLOCH
MARNOCH	5. COLE
YAAGER	6. WESTWATER
H. RUTHERFORD	7. OMEROS
W. RUTHERFORD	8. SMITH
WATKISS	9. LOUKANIDIS
BAARTZ	10. BLITZ
JONES	11. HIGNETT

Referee: A. BOSKOVIC.

Linesmen: A. Faraone, P. Rampley.

Last-minute goals seal fates of Prague, APIA

HAKOAH v. PRAGUE 3-0 (1-0)

This match, above everything else, was a colossal strategic defeat for Prague: the only thing they had to do was to avoid a 3-0 defeat — yet this is precisely what they suffered.

On these hard, cold facts one would be inclined to say that their demise was well justified.

But it was also justified by Hakoah's superbly organised display which they staged against almost overwhelming odds.

Hakoah played with such self-assurance and poise as if they had known that they would succeed in the end, if only they kept trying.

And this they did, moving the ball cleverly to the wings, making full use of H. Rutherford and Jones on the flanks and thus shrewdly avoiding Prague's double-stopper trap.

Hakoah had no really weak spots — but Prague had plenty.

Scheinflug looked positively unfit, slow and lethargic, King was a bundle of nerves while Blacker and Wilcox were merely enthusiastic, but highly unsuccessful passengers.

As it so often happens, even luck was against Prague: no less than five times they hit the bar or the post, the last time with only seconds to go when that one goal would have meant their Grand Final qualification.

Hakoah, too, had their share of bad luck moments but on the whole, the ball was really rolling for them.

Their win was never in serious doubt, as their control of the game was continuous and absolute.

The question was only whether they can win by the

necessary 3-0 (or 5-1) margin.

This they did, very deservedly, even if they had to sweat for their decisive, all-important third goal until the very last minute.



DENNIS YAAGER
(Hakoah)

PAN HELLENIC v. APIA 3-2 (2-2, 0-1)

For precisely 110 minutes it appeared as though these two teams, engaged in a deadly combat, were about to do Prague a tremendous favor by preventing each other from winning.

Then, 11 seconds into injury time, with the APIA defence wide open, Taylor made his only mistake of the afternoon and neatly allowed Westwater to push home the third goal until the very last minute.

This, of course, sounds like an over-simplification of a peculiar match which alternated between crashing boredom and highly charged drama.

At one stage APIA and later Pan Hellenic looked like certain winners while towards the very end a draw — and a Prague qualification — seemed inevitable.

For some 70 minutes the tempo and the standard of the match was rightly criticised by the large crowd — and a Prague qualification — seemed inevitable.

In Pan Hellenic, apart from Westwater, Cole, Hignett and Smith did more than anyone else for victory.

The fickle crowd passed cruel judgment over Loukanidis for his indifferent, passive display: he was the only Pan Hellenic player not carried off the field by the exhausted Greek fans.

In APIA, Taylor, Van Blerk, Sambrook and occasionally Blue and Campbell showed their best form.

Young Burnett displayed enough talent in his debut to give APIA fresh hope for the future.

Pan Hellenic: Clarke; Johnston, Cole, Hignett; McCulloch, Westwater, Blitz, Smith, Loukanidis, Petrou (Henson), Omeros.

APIA: Taylor; Van Blerk, Sambrook, Ackerley; Hughes, Bottalico; Burnett (Campaña), Campbell, Wentzel, Blue, Giacometti.

Goals: Campbell 4 min., McCulloch 73 min., Cole 76 min., Giacometti 80 min., Westwater 110 min.

Referee: A. Boskovic.

Crowd: 17,000 (double-header).

— PAUL DEAN

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	Hakoah	Pan Hellenic	APIA	Prague
●	0-1	2-2	3-0	
●	1-0	3-2	0-5	
●	2-2	2-3	4-4	
●	0-3	5-0	4-4	●

FINAL ROUND-ROBIN TABLE

P. Hellenic	2	—	1	4	7	4
Hakoah	1	1	1	5	3	3
Prague	1	1	1	9	7	3
APIA	—	2	1	8	9	2



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ROUND THE WORLD

Czech soccer resumes

After a four-week interruption caused by the Soviet invasion, the Czechoslovakian competition resumed last week. Understandably crowds were drastically reduced (only 48,000 spectators watched the seven matches) and most games produced sub-standard football. Players had not trained for five weeks and most fans clearly have other things on their mind. The situation is so serious that national team coach Marko thinks that only a miracle can prevent Denmark from beating Czechoslovakia in the World Cup elimination match in Copenhagen this week. The Olympic team, now in Mexico, only had one proper training session for four weeks prior to their departure.

German grounds need renovation

Though the next World Cup is still 20 months away, the West German cities of Berlin, Dusseldorf, Cologne, Nuremberg, Frankfurt, Hannover, Munich and Hamburg have already officially applied to stage matches in the 1974 World Cup to be held in West Germany. It is estimated that each of the above-mentioned cities will have to spend about \$2.5 million to renovate their grounds if they want to be considered.

SCOREBOARD

INTERNATIONAL: Switzerland v. Austria 1-0.
BULGARIA: Spartak Pleven v. Levski 0-1; Slavia v. Miners 3-0; Beroe v. Spartak Sofia 2-0; CSKA v. Dobrudja 2-0; Trakia v. Marek 2-2; Lokomotiva Sofia v. Lokomotiva Plovdiv 0-2; Bourgas v. Chernomore 0-0; Botev Vratsa v. Dounav 2-1. Table: CSKA 11; Lokomotiva Plovdiv 10; Levski 9; Slavia 8.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Slavia v. Trnava 1-2; Dukla v. Lokomotiva 0-1; Inter Bratislava v. Ostrava 0-2; Kosice v. Zilina 2-0; Teplice v. Sparta 1-0; Banska v. Slovan Bratislava 1-2; Pardubice v. Trenčin 0-0.

EAST GERMANY: Rostock v. Zwicau 0-1; Halle v. Magdeburg 4-1; Vorwärts Berlin v. Erfurt 5-0; Lokomotive Leipzig v. Riesa 1-1; Wismut v. Dynamo Berlin 0-0; Union Berlin x. Karl Marxstadt 1-2; Jena v. Chemie Leipzig 2-2. Table: Rostock, Chemie Leipzig, Wismut 7; Vorwärts Berlin, Halle, Magdeburg, Zwicau 6.

GREECE: AEK v. Pierikos 1-1; Ethnikos v. Heraklion 2-1; PAOK v. OFI 4-1; Panarterios v. Panionios 0-0; Halkis v. Veria 0-0; Panathinaikos v. Trikala 3-0; Egaleo v. Apollon 1-1.

HOLLAND: Ajax v. NEV 2-0; Sittard v. Fortuna 3-1; Sparta v. Volendam 1-1; NAC v. Holland Sport 2-0; Go Ahead v. Telstar 3-0; Twente v. GVAV 4-2; Feyenoord v. ADO 3-2; AZ '67 v. MVV 4-1; PSV v. DWS 2-1.

HUNGARY: Csepel v. Partizan 1-1.

After fire disasters at Swansea, Coventry and Nottingham, the stands of Northampton have also been destroyed by flames. Sports Minister Denis Howell is now having the causes of fires investigated though the suspicion is that many of these grounds, built some 60 years ago or more, are hazardous firetraps.

British courts get tough

British courts are taking drastic action to curb hooliganism at soccer matches. Last week a Glasgow court fined 14 people a total of \$2,000 for riotous behaviour when Rangers beat Celtic 4-2. In London a magistrate fined a first offender involved in an incident at a Queens Park Rangers match \$200, and in Liverpool a 66-year-old semi-invalid Everton fan was sentenced to six months in jail for obscene language, resisting arrest and bottle-throwing. It was his fifth conviction.

• There's no doubt the magical attraction of Herrera. In a recent Italian Cup match, AS Roma, HH's new team, beat arch-rivals Lazio in front of 80,000 spectators who paid a record 107 million liras at the gate.

• The Brazilian Government has banned soccer as a woman's sport. A recently-formed ladies' team, Brazil's first, "Guarani," was forced to disband by government decree.

• Top Dutch referee Piet Roomer has retired at the age of 48 as the result of a serious car smash. Roomer, Holland's top referee with the famous Leo Horn, has refereed 84 European Cup matches and 20 full internationals.

• Tony Dunne signed a new three-year contract with Manchester United and Georgie Best a two-year contract.

• Did you know that Santos have already played 70 matches this year? At this rate they should once again top the 100 mark in 1968. More than half of their matches are highly-paid friendlies abroad which net the club an average of \$400,000 a year.

• The City of Turin will name a new sports centre in honor of Luigi Meroni, the Torino forward killed at a pedestrian crossing last year.

• France and West Germany meet in Marseille in a friendly on Thursday. The Germans have only selected one new international: FC Köln's 20-year-old winger, Heinz Flohé.

Baxter not for Scotland

Jim Baxter is the only surprise omission from Scotland's preliminary 28-man World Cup squad for the coming elimination series. Baxter has been capped 29 times, but lost favor with Scottish selectors when he moved south of the border.

• Alan Gowling, Manchester United's new young forward, has been advised by Matt Busby to complete his University course before turning professional.

• Radnicki Belgrade's fullback, Borjovanic, set an unenviable record two weeks ago. When his team lost 2-6 he scored three times — all "own" goals!

• Sweden will field six players operating in foreign clubs during their World Cup campaign. Looks like they'll need them. Last week they could only manage a 1-1 draw in Oslo with Norway.

• Inter Milan have been beset with problems since Herrera left them. Bertini wants out, Gori is injured, Corso and Suarez are suspended and Bedin hasn't trained for a month following the death of his father.

• Santos won the recent Buenos Aires Tournament. In the final the Brazilians beat Benfica 5-1, Toninho scoring four goals and eclipsing a still convalescing Eusebio and also team-mate Pele.

• George Best is also interested in Rugby League. He has accepted to become an honorary member of the Salford club.

• Italy's traditional Combi Prize for the best goalkeeper of the season has been awarded to Anzolin of Juventus.

• Montevideo will stage a monster tournament in the New Year. Have been invited to appear in the Uruguayan capital: Racing Buenos Aires, Estudiantes de la Plata, Santos, Flamengo Rio, Manchester United, Inter Milan, Benfica, Real Madrid and the two local clubs, Penarol and Nacional.

• In Italy every professional over the age of 32 is now compelled to submit to a physical and medical check-up at the start of the season at the FA's Technical Centre at Coverciano.

• Liverpool sold Tony Hateley to Coventry City for \$172,000 last week. The total fees paid out for the 27-year-old centre-forward now total a record \$644,000. Since 1963 Hateley has played for Notts County, Aston Villa, Chelsea and Liverpool.

Cardiff star wanted

Don Murray who recently toured Australia with Cardiff City, is rated as one of the most brilliant young stoppers in Britain. The tall Scot has attracted the attention of many clubs including Everton and may fetch £80,000 (\$175,000) in the market.

Boil-overs in European Cups

The first round of the European Champions' and Cup-Winners' Cups, played for the first time on the same day last week, provided upsets galore.

More than a million spectators throughout Europe watched the first round of the two major European competitions, which take place this season without the Russian, Hungarian, Polish, Bulgarian and East German clubs, who withdrew in protest over the UEFA's amended draw. (Those countries are still in the FIFA-sponsored Fair Cities' Cup, however.)

Biggest first round shock of the Champions' Cup was Fenerbahce of Turkey's goalless draw at Maine Road against Manchester City. The English champions' chances of reaching the second round are now remote as Istanbul crowds are amongst the most fanatical in Europe and Turkish clubs seldom lose at home.

Though surprisingly beaten 1-2 by Malmo, Italian champions, Milan AC, should beat the Swedes convincingly enough at home to advance further.

FC Nurnberg of West Germany, however, will be hard pressed to stave off elimination: the 1-1 achieved by Holland's Ajax Amsterdam at Nuremberg should see the Dutchmen through to the next round.

Totally obscure Valur Reykjavik created a sensation by holding the 1967-68 runners-up, Benfica, to a 0-0 draw, but there won't be another miracle in Lisbon where Benfica should clinch the qualification easily.

Celtic Glasgow's 0-2 defeat in St. Etienne against the French champions may have surprised the insular British press, but the result was expected on the Continent where St. Etienne is hailed as the first French club side in international class since Reims a decade ago.

As goals scored away from home count double in the early rounds of the European Cups, a 3-1 Celtic victory in Glasgow would still see St. Etienne through to the next round.

In the Cup-Winners' Cup, the big shock was Partizan Tirana's 1-0 win over Torino of Italy — Albania's first-ever international success of note.

Dunfermline of Scotland banged in 10 goals against APOEL of Cyprus, but West Bromwich Albion, beaten 1-3 in Belgium, and Cardiff City, held to a 2-2 draw at home by Portugal's Oporto, may make an early exit.

The first round results:

European Champions' Cup: Manchester City v. Fenerbahce (Turkey) 0-0; Waterford (Ireland) v. Manchester United 1-3; Steaua Bucharest (Romania) v. Spartak Trnava (Czechoslovakia) 3-1; AEK Athens (Greece) v. Jeunesse Esch (Luxembourg) 3-0; Floriana (Malta) v. Reipublica (Finland) 1-1; Malmo (Sweden) v. Milan AC (Italy) 2-1; FC Nurnberg (West Germany) v. Ajax Amsterdam (Holland) 1-1; Rosenborg (Norway) v. Rapid (Austria) 1-3; Anderlecht (Belgium) v. Glentoran (Northern Ireland) 3-0; St. Etienne (France) v. Celtic Glasgow (Scotland) 2-0; Valur Reykjavik (Iceland) v. Benfica (Portugal) 0-0; Real Madrid v. Limassol (Cyprus) 6-0.

European Cup-Winners' Cup: Bruges (Belgium) v. West Bromwich Albion (England) 3-1; Rumelange (Luxembourg) v. Sliema Wanderers (Malta) 2-1; Cardiff City (Wales) v. Oporto (Portugal) 2-2; Dunfermline (Scotland) v. APOEL (Cyprus) 10-1; Crusaders (Northern Ireland) v. Kamratnara (Sweden) 2-2; Partizani Tirana (Albania) v. Torino (Italy) 1-0; Freja Randers (Denmark) v. Shamrock Rovers (Ireland) 1-0; Slovan Bratislava (Czechoslovakia) v. FK Bor (Yugoslavia) 3-0; Altay Izmir (Turkey) v. Iyn Oslo (Norway) 3-1; Bordeaux (France) v. FC Koln (West Germany) 2-1; Olympiakos (Greece) v. Frem Reykjavik (Iceland) 2-0.

Fair Cities' Cup: Chelsea (England) v. Morton (Scotland) 5-0; Rangers (Scotland) v. Vojvodina (Yugoslavia) 2-0; Bilbao (Spain) v. Liverpool (England) 2-1; Standard Liege (Belgium) v. Leeds (England) 0-0; Trakia Plovdiv (Bulgaria) v. Real Zaragoza (Spain) 3-1; Sked Oslo (Norway) v. AIK Stockholm (Sweden) 1-1; Dinamo Zagreb (Yugoslavia) v. Fiorentina (Italy) 1-1; Ljubljana (Yugoslavia) v. Hibernal (Scotland) 0-3; Sporting Lisbon (Portugal) v. Valencia (Spain) 4-0; Wiener Sportklub (Austria) v. Slavia Prague (Czechoslovakia) 1-0; Vitoria Setubal (Portugal) v. Linfield (N. Ireland) 3-0; Metz (France) v. Hamburger SV (West Germany) 4-4; Bologna (Italy) v. FC Basel (Switzerland) 4-1; Hansa Rostock (East Germany) v. Nice (France) 3-0; OFK Belgrade (Yugoslavia) v. Rapid Bucharest (Romania) 6-1; Goztepe Izmir (Turkey) v. Marseille (France) 2-0.

US finals under way

The American National League final play-offs are now in progress. The four regional group winners, Atlanta, Cleveland, Kansas City and San Diego are playing a two-round round-robin with all matches staged on neutral grounds. In the first round Cleveland v. Atlanta and Kansas City v. San Diego both ended in 1-1 draws. San Diego, with the Brazilian Vava and a galaxy of top-rate Yugoslavs is a strong tip for the national title.

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MELBOURNE PAGE...

EDITED BY BOB LOW

COOK'S GRAND TOUR OF CLUBS

Year held few joys for Juventus fans

Juventus, once the most successful, and not so many years ago the best supported club in Victorian soccer have chalked up another dismal season.

Their only hope of finishing on a bright note will depend on the outcome of whether they can defeat shock West Australian side, Azzurri in the quarterfinals of the Australia Cup today (Thursday) at Olympic Park.

Even assuming that they do — and this is by no means a certainty — their prospects of advancing into the final at the expense of Hakoah (Sydney) cannot be considered rosy.

The Juventus prospects for 1968 were given a stunning blow even before the 1967 season had finished when five players told the club they would be returning to Europe and elsewhere.

QUINTET LEAVES

The quintet were: centre-half and backbone of their defence George Scott who won the Argus Medal in 1965, striking inside-forward John Bell, scoring winger Freake Torque who cost them a hefty fee from Lions, fullback John Milton and wing half or inside-forward Terry Luckhurst.

The club brought back former centre-forward or winger Jim Malloy from Scotland but soon suffered another blow when the player fell victim to a carriage operation.

Compelled to go into the transfer market in a big way, they started the ball rolling by buying centre-forward Ian Currie from Makedonia who were relegated from the State League in 1967.

The former Croatia player failed to reproduce anything like his best form with Juventus and for most of the past season has been out of the first team.

They paid a substantial fee to Melbourne for wing-half or inside-forward Bob Connelly, a member of the Hungarian side's 1967 State League championship and Australia Cup-winning team.

Connelly has fully justified the cash outlay by being one of their best and most consistent players all season.

An interstate swoop brought them Tommy McColl at a record fee to the club from sister side in South Australia, Juventus Adelaide.

McColl, an Australian representative on the SAI-

gon and Far East tour of 1967, never rose above mediocrity, returned to Adelaide, missed half the league games and was in turn suspended by Melbourne-Juventus.

McColl has only recently returned to the club.

Still determined to bolster their side at the halfway mark of the past league season and before the local transfer deadline, Juventus forked out another big fee to Slavia for wing-half Jock Goodwin who had been the outstanding player of the 1968 Ampol Cup with the Port Melbourne side.

On paper Juventus have all season had just as formidable a line-up as most of the other clubs.

On the field, however, they have often looked like eleven stragglers with little or no link-up between defence and attack and sadly missing a leader and general in their team.

The fact that the club has had three coaches this season has not enhanced the performances of the players.

Such drastic changes have confused the players in their style, approach to the game as well as having undermined their confidence.

Juventus kicked off in 1968 with Mario Corti in charge both on and off the field, replaced him about midway through the season with Dave McIntosh, the former Hakoah and Victorian fullback who was in charge of the 1967 Dockerty Cup giant-killers, Sunshine City.

THREE COACHES

McIntosh only stayed with the club for a handful of games before being succeeded by the man now in charge, Manny Poulakakis.

None of the trio succeeded in welding Juventus into a worthwhile combination.

The "big shots" in Victorian soccer from 1952 till 1956, winners of the first State League championship in 1958, Juventus have got to go back to 1960 when they won their last major competition, in the now diminishing Dockerty Cup.

For eight long years their faithful fans have been ultra-patient for a State

League title win or an Australia, Dockerty or Ampol Cup success.

Every year seems to bring

bigger and better promises from the management and players — which are never fulfilled somehow.

GRAND HELLAS DISPLAY IN CUP

Elwood-Austria convincingly defeated their First Division counterparts Sunshine City to reach the semifinal of the 1968 Dockerty Cup.

In the other matches South Melbourne - Hellas had a runaway win over JUST, George Cross only managed to survive with a late goal against Dandenong City and glamor side Croatia were sorely pressed to assert a single goal superiority over Ringwood City.

Details:

Croatia v. Wilhelmmina 1-0

A goal in the sixth minute by McIntyre, their leading marksman, was enough to get Croatia through to the semis. It was poor fare for most of the game, rough and tumble into the bargain.

Sunshine City v. Elwood Austria 0-2

Sunshine who had hoped to make the semi for the second year in succession never looked likely to emerge as winners. Elwood took command from the kick-off, never slackened their grip and had the game wrapped up long before the final whistle.

Scorers: Schumacher, Zielinski.

Dandenong City v. George Cross 0-1

George Cross looked un-

easy all through against the

First Division side and

only a late goal by former

Slavia and Pan Hellenic

player, Johnny Sanchez got

them through and saved

the game face. Dandenong, a

well knit side, deserve credit

for their performance. Why

the Cross starved ace scor-

ing centre Nick McCallum

is a mystery.

Scorers: Schumacher,

Zielinski.

George Cross (from): Kastner, Ferguson, Morson, Truskowski, Ireland, Sanchez, Campbell, Gardiner, McCallum, Hodgson, Armour, Vella, Friederberg.

SM-Hellas (from): Dan-

drikas, Kelly, Mantrakis,

Micic, Bedford, Deeming,

Pyrigos, Kamboropoulos,

Ackerley, Gorrie, Damani-

kos, Roussis, Adamakis.

The final of the Dockerty

Cup will be played at

Olympic Park on Sunday,

October 6.

Box Hill, who take their place back in the State League next season after being in the First Division

since 1962, are being

"buzzed" by many State

League players who have

not been regulars all season

with a view to buying their

transfers. The Hillmen,

however, without any great

ambitions next year other

The fine, bond and extra police requirement which were imposed on Hellas after the game with Melbourne at Middle Park have been upheld by the Disciplinary Committee.

I believe that Hellas will than consolidating their now appeal against the position and keeping their newly won status, won't be easily forced into buying cast-offs. So far they have made no moves locally in search of players but are hoping through a top contact in the UK to bring a few from there who will boost their prospects of staying upstairs. Appointed team manager of the club for next season is Bill Stewart who has given many years of faithful service both as player and official.

Elwood - Austria have three former State League players in their line-up. They are Zielinski, the former George Cross inside-forward, Schumacher, ex-Footscray JUST right-winger and Angstenberger, inside-forward, ex-Lions.

Piko Pavlovich, the Footscray JUST secretary for the past three years will stand down at the club's annual general meeting to be held shortly.

Pavlovich who has a long association with the club feels he needs a rest from the game after three grueling years as secretary and in particular this past season when JUST had to pull out everything in an effort to avoid relegation. He is also a Board of Management member of the VSF and also a member of the State League Management Committee.

A little bird suggests that Johnny Margarites, the former South Melbourne Hellas wing-half who has been player-coach of Alexander for the past two seasons, will part company with the Greek side now they are back in the First Division.

Jimmy Rooney, the Lions inside-forward won the Travellodge Players voting award for 1968 topping the poll by Melbourne soccer writers with 20 votes. Rooney's prize is a week for two at any of the Travelodge Motels in Australia.

Jack Finlay, the Moreland coach and a former player of the club is the target for a prominent State League side who will shortly make a new appointment in this direction.

Four State League clubs have been using Olympic Park this season — Croatia, Slavia, George Cross and Alexander. Now that Alexander are back in First Division who will fill the number four spot in 1969. Could it be Lions?

The telephone number of our Melbourne editor, Bob Low is 329-7582 — after 6 p.m.

Our Melbourne distributor, P. Handi, can be contacted at 211-6159.

ACE SCORERS

The top scorers from each State League club for the season just ended were:

• McCALLUM (George Cross)	16
• ARMSTRONG (Hakoah)	13
• MCINTYRE (Croatia)	11
• ABONYI (Melbourne)	11
• KAZI (JUST)	10
• REID (Slavia)	9
• ATKINS (Wilhelmina)	8
• GADECKI (Polonia)	8
• MICIC (Hellas)	8
• PYRGOLIS (Hellas)	8
• DI MARCHI (Juventus)	6
• MARGARITES (Alexander)	4

AUSTRALIA CUP — QUARTER-FINALS
(Today, Thursday, September 26)
Juventus (Vic.) v. Azzurri (WA) at
Olympic Park, 3 p.m.
Croatia (Vic.) v. Hakoah (Vic.) at
Middle Park, 3.45 p.m.

Auburn tipped to beat Western Subs

— By CHARLES SPITERI —

Western Suburbs produced their best football of the Second Division round-robin series to topple a determined Bankstown and earn a place in the Grand Final while Auburn were forced into extra-time to subdue Sutherland.

Bankstown's defeat was the final blow to a demoralised team which lost interest once it dropped out of the promotion race.

Last week's match reports:

Western Suburbs v. Bankstown 3-1

Bankstown were without right fullback Fitzgerald and left-half Attwood and this weakened their defence to the extent that Wests dictated play throughout.

Wests owe their decisive victory to great performances by their half-back line of Holmes, Bijkirk and De Santi, who kept the ball in Bankstown's territory for long periods.

Wests scored three goals in the space of 13 minutes in the first half through Tom Cassidy, Peter Pont and Greg Woods.

A penalty in the second half by John Jamieson gave Bankstown their lone goal, but only superb goal-keeping by Bankstown's young goalkeeper, Steve Wilkes, who came in as a replacement after the interval, denied Wests a bigger win.

Western Suburbs: Murray; Bastion, Apostolidis; Holmes, Bijkirk, De Santi; Cassidy, Harrison, Woods, Pont, Nudley.

Bankstown: Friedl; (Wilkes); Brack, Sheldrick; Jamieson, Hinkman, Madden; Tansley, White, Bamforth, Clarke, Goose.

Referee: A. R. Brown.

Auburn v. Sutherland 4-0

After 90 minutes of dull and unexciting football, Auburn outstayed Sutherland to notch four goals in extra-time.

Both sides performed poorly in front of goal and missed chance after chance in a grim battle of defences, but Auburn deserved their win nevertheless.

Sutherland were craftier footballwise, but Auburn were much faster and more dangerous when in possession.

In extra-time, Sutherland tired badly and first Robbie McKnight, and then Paul Crocker, slammed the first two goals for Auburn.

In the second period of extra-time, Auburn's left fullback Russell Haggatt left the field, but despite this handicap, centre-forward Adam Moffatt netted twice — once from a penalty.

Auburn: Brommett; Smith, Haggatt; Entwistle, Thompson, Keen; Allen, Lambert (Crocker), Moffatt, McKnight, O'Neill.

Sutherland: Root; Patterson, Watts; Shrubsole, Turner, Griffiths; Cacciola, Davidson, Sant, Cucitti, Roche.

Referee: N. Jones.
Crowd: 410.

THIS WEEKEND

Macarthur Park on Saturday offers a real treat to the soccer lover and good possibilities to the scout

looking for talent as three Grand Finals will be decided.

First match will be the clash between Bankstown and Sutherland in the third grade Grand Final, followed by Balgownie v. Wests in the second grade.

However most of the attention will be focussed on the Auburn-Western Suburbs first grade Grand Final, which could develop into a needle match, providing plenty of thrills and good entertainment.

In their earlier encounter, Auburn won narrowly but Wests have lifted their game since.

So far in this series, Auburn have been experimenting with their forwards, but for this vital tussle it is almost certain that coach John Nowacki will take charge and lead the attack.

Wests retained their static forward line throughout, and no changes are likely.

Auburn seem to have more punch in attack and will start favorites to complete the much sought-after "double."

READERS' LETTERS

Silly terminology

Congratulations for your comments in your September 20 issue under the heading "Simplalk."

It is just one more of your concise and constructive statements on soccer administration.

The following could be an outstanding example of Federation "logic" with regard to the end of season round-robin (Second Division).

In the event of Bankstown and Auburn defeating Western Suburbs and Sutherland respectively, last Saturday the point scores would have been Auburn 6 and each of the other three teams 2 points.

According to the Federation "reasoning" one of the three clubs will play Auburn in the Grand Final this weekend.

Thus, after proving over 22 matches that they were the top team and then having beaten each of the three next teams in succeeding weeks, Auburn could, perhaps through injury or illness of players, be beaten in this so-called "final" and another club (even the fourth on the "premiership" table) be termed Second Division 1968 "Champions."

"How silly can you get?"
Alec Henley,
Eastwood.

Let's be orthodox

While I agree that the current method of staging the semifinals as a round-robin tournament has proved a big success I miss the sudden-death atmosphere of previous seasons when two of the three matches eliminated the losing team.

I also miss the second grade semifinals which were played as curtain-raisers. These, I feel, used to help swell the crowd as at least two or three different clubs were involved.

I am no traditionalist, and hold no brief for the rugby codes, but in this instance I don't think soccer gained anything by departing from orthodoxy.

Keith Hutchinson,
Coogee.

but Wests have lifted their game since.

So far in this series, Auburn have been experimenting with their forwards, but for this vital tussle it is almost certain that coach John Nowacki will take charge and lead the attack.

Wests retained their static forward line throughout, and no changes are likely.

Auburn seem to have more punch in attack and will start favorites to complete the much sought-after "double."

Poor sports

By staging a mass walkout after Prague took a 3-0 lead in the round-robin match against Pan Hellenic last Sunday week, Pan Hellenic supporters showed poor sportsmanship.

They also revealed what some people had suspected for a long time, namely that they are not true soccer fans.

They only come to football to see their team win.

Nothing else matters for them.

They would prefer to see Pan Hellenic win a dreadful, sub-standard match 1-0 rather than witness a thrilling, top-class exhibition of football if their team is on the losing end.

This is not sport as I have been brought up to see it.

B. Garriga,
Dee Why.

Public outcry

Amongst the all too rare unbiased controllers of news media, there must be a growing realisation of what a force soccer can be in Sydney.

Week after week good soccer crowds are reported and without one speck of the ballyhoo surrounding Rugby League, soccer is more than holding its own.

An assessment of space allocation, including special promotions, at the start of the year gave Rugby League: 17, soccer 1.

A later check of space showed Rugby League: 8, soccer 1.

At times it has been a case for soccer of "No pictures, no nuffin."

What soccer needs — and must demand — is a bit more of the good old Australian "Fair Go."

I suggest that every soccer fan worth his salt bombard our newspapers, radio and TV stations with requests for the coverage our booming sport deserves.

Only a public outcry can put a stop to the bias and prejudice of the news media.

L. Pocock,
Double Bay.

ADELAIDE NEWS

OLD RIVALS MEET AGAIN IN FINAL

— From ALLAN CRISP —

Old rivals Polonia and Juventus should provide an exciting finale to the 1968 season when they meet in the Federation Cup final at Hindmarsh tomorrow (Saturday, September 28).

The finalists needed an extra-time replay to decide the 1967 Ampol Cup Final and a similar situation could easily develop this time.

Juventus were triumphant in that night series final, but I think Polonia will reverse the result on Saturday.

Polonia finished as league runners-up to WA Hellas, but eliminated the champions from the Federation Cup.

The stage is set for an evenly contested final because Polonia won 1-0 in the first round league fixture while the return game ended in a 1-1 draw.

Eddy Typek (Polonia) and Joe Serafini (Juventus) will be the key strikers for their sides.

Typek burst through twice against Austria, but Serafini was held scoreless against Budapest in the other semifinal.

Juventus, however, will have taken solace from the return to goal-scoring touch by former Australian international, Steve Herczeg.

Polonia will need to reproduce their "Hellas" form to score a convincing win, but they get my vote because of their more effective defence.

Probable line-ups:

Polonia: Romanowicz, Mielnik, Keppl (t.o.g.) v. Austria 0; Juventus 3 (Herczeg 3) v. Budapest 1 (Bakurski).

MORE HOPES FOR HONOR

Alan Whittle, the South Australian Federation of Soccer Coaches' representative at a recent Sydney meeting, brought back news of an enlarged national squad planned by coach, Joe Vlasits.

The national coach wants to form a squad of 40 players with 15 of them in the 18-19 age group.

Since SA has the youngest senior State squad, it is assumed that many of them would be in line for selection.

The final selection of the national squad has obviously been delayed, however, until the NSW and Victorian Federations settle their differences with the ASF Executive.

— A.C.

RECORD CROWDS AT ROUND-ROBIN

The "top four" First Division final play-offs attracted record crowds in Sydney this year.

The average attendance for the three double-headed semifinals was 17,300 spectators.

Last season it was 10,936 and in 1966, the first year the round-robin system was introduced, 9,108.

Average attendances at play-off matches leading to the Grand Final since the advent of the Federation (semifinals and preliminary final in the "old days") were: 1957: 4,990, 1958: 5,634, 1959: 9,275, 1960: 9,662, 1961: 9,528, 1962: 12,220, 1963: 14,952, 1964: 12,906, 1965: 9,583.

SYDNEY PROGRAM

THIS WEEKEND

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

SECOND DIVISION GRAND FINAL

Auburn v. Western Suburbs — Macarthur Park, 3.00 p.m.
Early Games: Bankstown v. Sutherland (Third Grade) 11.45 a.m.; Balgownie v. Western Suburbs (Second Grade) 1.15 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

FIRST DIVISION GRAND FINAL

Hakoah v. Pan Hellenic — Sydney Sports Ground, 3.00 p.m.
Early Games: St. George v. Croatia (Third Grade) 11.45 a.m.; APIA v. Prague (Second Grade) 1.15 p.m.

NEXT WEEKEND

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

Sydney v. Newcastle — Wentworth Park, 3.00 p.m.

Representative Fixture

1968 State Championship

NSW FEDERATION

v.

NORTHERN FEDERATION

(Sydney v. Newcastle)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

3 p.m. at Wentworth Park.
Early games from 12 noon.



FLOTTA

LAURO